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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

# THE NEW AVENGERS

The Hood has built an organization of super-criminals, including The Wrecking Crew, Chemistro, The Wizard, Madame Masque and a host of others. To prove himself, he and his gang took out the super hero Tigra and robbed a bank of millions and millions of dollars.

The Avengers successfully tracked and stopped the Hood's gang but the Hood broke his new teammates out of S.H.I.E.L.D. custody, specifically to take the fight right back to the Avengers.

Now, the New Avengers and Tony Stark are dealing with a Skrull infestation, shape-shifting aliens who can take the guise of anyone they want. The heroes can't detect the Skrulls and can't trust anyone to be who they seem to be... including themselves.

It would seem like it's a good day to be a super-villain...


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"For what they've done, they will have to pay the ultimate price." – Ultimatum, November 2008

ONE MONTH AGO
SO, WHAT? WE GONNA TORTURE HIM?
WE'RE GONNA QUESTION HIM.
ABOUT WHAT?
YOU'LL SEE.
NO. NO.
SEE, THIS IS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
THIS IS--STARK WON'T STAND FOR THIS.
THEY WILL COME LOOKING FOR HIM.
HE'S WAKING UP.
WE SHOULD DUMP HIM IN THE RIVER AND MOVE ON. TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN THIS ROAD.
STOP.
IT'S A BAD ROAD.
AFTER ALL THE @#%% WE BEEN THROUGH WITH THESE @#%%? MAN, I NEED PAYBACK.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
HHHRR...
HERE GOES...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?
WHERRRRE MMMI?
THE QUESTION IS: WHO ARE YOU?
I-I AM AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
YOU--YOU PEOPLE--YOU PEOPLE ARE--ARE ALL UNDER ARREST.
ACTUALLY, NO.
BUT IF YOU WON'T ANSWER MY FIRST QUESTION, LET'S JUST GET TO THE BIG ONE...

THE HOOD'S SYNDICATE OF CRIMINALS

TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT SKRULLS.

ONE MONTH, ONE DAY AGO
SETTLE DOWN, WHITNEY.
HHRR!
IS THAT HER NAME?
WHITNEY FROST.
DID NOT KNOW THAT.
CRACK
AGH!
WELL... DAMN!
HHAARR!
AGH!
WHACK
GAH!

AAAIEE!
ZZAACCKK!
DAMN!
GET UP, GET ON YOUR FEET!
TRY THAT AGAIN--WE'LL FRY YOUR HEAD AND THEN BLOW IT ACROSS THE ROOM!

MADAME MASQUE...
WHITNEY FROST...
WHAT THE HELL *HAPPENED* TO YOU?
YOU USED TO HAVE YOUR OWN HONEST-TO-GOD *CRIMINAL EMPIRE.*
YOU WERE A FORCE TO BE *RECKONED* WITH.
FOR *REAL?*
AND NOW... WHAT?
YOU'RE THE HOOD'S FRIDAY NIGHT GIRL?
NOW, *THAT* IS A COME-DOWN.
THE HOOD.
THIS IS A NEW THING. THIS KINGPIN OF THE SUPER-CRIMINALS.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
AH, THE BAD-ASS STINK EYE.
SAW THAT COMING.
GUESS WE SHOULD TAKE HER MASK OFF.
GUESS WE HAVE TO.
SEE WHAT'S SO DAMN HORRIBLE UNDER THERE.
THEY SAY NO ONE'S EVER SEEN HER WITHOUT IT.
IF THE HOOD HAS, WE HAVE TO KNOW OR THE SWITCHOUT WON'T WORK.
EXACTLY.
*I'LL KILL YOU!*
*I'LL KILL YOU ALL!*

DON'T WORRY, BABE... I GOT IT.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM

YOU DON'T--

HUP!

NAH!

BLAM BLAM

HEY.

PARKER.

BLAM

HOLD ON, ALMOST DONE.

PARKER!

DON'T--

PARKER!

WHAT?

WHAT IS THIS?

TAP TAP

HUH. GUESS WE SHOULD GET EVERYONE TOGETHER.

ONE MONTH AGO.

TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT SKRULLS.

WHAT'S A SKRULL?

IT'S AN ALIEN RACE, RIGHT?

SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN RACE.

*SPACE* ALIENS? OR--?

ALIENS, NOW? WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

*THIS* IS WHAT YOU DRAGGED US ALL BACK TOGETHER FOR? ALIENS?

WAIT FOR IT.

YOU'RE--YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST.

NO, NO.

COME ON, MINI-KINGPIN. THIS IS ALL SUCH BUNK, MAN.

LISTEN, ALL DUE RESPECT...

BUT YOU BLEW IT.

YOU SICCED US ON THE AVENGERS AND YOU GOT US ALL BEAT TO HELL.

YOU TRIED TO GET US PAID, AND YOU GOT US PINCHED.

NOW WE ALL APPRECIATE YOU CAN GET US OUT OF THE POKEY, BUT IT AIN'T WORKING.

YEAH.

YOU TRIED, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK.

THE REASON GETTING A GROUP OF US TOGETHER LIKE THIS HAS NEVER WORKED BEFORE IS BECAUSE IT *DOESN'T* WORK.

AND NOW YOU COME AT US WITH *SPACE ALIENS?*

EXACTLY.

YOU DONE?

*SERIOUSLY?* A GUN?

YOU *DONE?*

DONE BUYING INTO YOUR B.S., DEMON BOY.

I'M *OUT.*

WE'RE *ALL* OUT.

AS IN: DON'T CALL NO MORE.

IT'S NOT A LIE.

I SAW THEM MYSELF.

SURE, THAT'S WHAT *YOU'LL* SAY.

YOU'RE HIS HOOCHIE MAMA.

WHAT?

WHERE IS *THAT* COMING FROM?

AIN'T'CHA?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

BUT YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO ME AGAIN AND I WILL KILL YOU.

NOT WITH *THAT* YOU WON'T.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

BLAM

AGGH!
BLAM
GLYAAGGH!
HOW MANY WILL IT TAKE?!
BLAM
AAGGH!
OH GOD!
THIS ONE SHOULD DO IT!
NO! NO!

PLEASE DON'T.
WELL, DAMN!
HO!
HOW MANY SKRULLS ARE POSING AS AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?
I--
I DON'T KNOW.
YES, YOU DO.
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE? WHY ARE YOU *HERE?*
I'LL SHOOT NEXT.
*NO!*
NO...
THE EARTH...
IT'S--IT'S OURS.

YEAH? YOU DON'T SAY.
WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE?
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE?
I-I DON'T KNOW.
NO *ONE* OF US KNOWS THE *ENTIRETY* OF THE PLAN.
ONLY-- ONLY THE QUEEN. BLESSED BE HER NAME.
PLEASE, THE PAIN-- THE PAIN IS SO...
SMACK
PPPPLEASE...
PLLEASE...
NO *ONE* OF US KNOWS.
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OUR WRITINGS TELL US-- OF-OF-OF A TIME WHEN THIS PLANET...
THE WORLD OF BLUE WILL BE OUR HOME-WORLD.
A WAVE OF DESTRUCTION ANNIHILATED OUR HOME. IT WAS THE SIGN OF SIGNS.
*THIS* IS OUR HOME NOW.
WHY ME? YOU WERE TRYING TO REPLACE ME WITH ONE OF YOU?
AGH!
WE NEED OUR AGENTS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE POWERED.
THE POWERED?
EVERY POWER SECT OF THE PLANET.
YOU-YOUR GATHERING-- IT IS NEW.
WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER IT. WE WEREN'T PREPARED
YOU HAVE AGENTS IN OTHER GROUPS?
MMM...
HEY!
IN THE *AVENGERS*? THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*? YOU HAVE YOUR AGENTS IN THERE *NOW*?
IT'S OUR...
PPP...
PLANET...
JEEZ!
GET-- GET HIM UP.

WELL, DAMN *THAT* ALL TO HELL.
IS HE DEAD?
HE'S *VERY* DEAD.
WHAT DO WE *DO?*
WE SHOULD *TELL* SOMEONE, RIGHT?
WHO?
TONY STARK?
OH DAMN, TONY STARK.
HE'S A--HE'S ONE OF THEM--
THAT MAKES SO MUCH SENSE.
WHAT *DO* WE DO?
I'M THINKING.
AND--HEY, HOW DO WE KNOW ONE OF US AIN'T ONE OF THEM RIGHT *NOW?*
FOR REAL.
BECAUSE THEY WERE TRYING TO GET INTO THIS GROUP THROUGH *ME.*
IF THEY *HAD* SOMEONE *IN* THIS GROUP THEY WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO--
SAYS *YOU.*
WHAT?
EXACTLY.
*YOU'RE* THE ONE BROUGHT THIS HERE. WHO'S TO SAY--
RIGHT! HOW DO WE KNOW *THIS* AIN'T SOME WHOLE MIND F--?!
*STOP IT!*
STOP IT AND THINK FOR A SECOND.
WHEN YOU--ROBBINS--YOUR POWERS--
WE HAVE ALL WITNESSED--WE'VE ALL SEEN YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF DEMONIC UNDERTOW...
WHEN WE WERE OUTSIDE DOCTOR STRANGE'S HOUSE, YOU WERE ABLE TO FOCUS AND SEE THROUGH HIS ILLUSIONS.
YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE TRUTH WHERE OTHERS COULD NOT.
TRY IT HERE.
SEE IF YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.
YEAH...

SO?
WELL?
ALL CLEAR.
WELL, THAT'S A RE--
BLAM
AGH!
SPAK
FUMP

DAMN IT!
JEEZ! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH ONE OF US THAT WAS!
THE SLUG?
THE SLUG.
I AM NOW FREAKING OUT.
THE REST OF US ARE WHO WE SAY WE ARE.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO HIM AFTER THEY BOTCHED THE ATTEMPT ON ME.
AND BEFORE WE CALLED THE MEETING.
RIGHT.
NO ONE ELSE IS CREEPED THE @#$% OUT?

THE BODIES. THE ENTIRE PLACE.
BURN IT.

WHAT DO WE DO?
I'M GOING TO DO SOME DIGGING.
I'M GOING TO FIGURE THIS OUT.

HOW?
I'LL CALL YOU.

TRANSLATION: I HAVE NO DAMN IDEA.

PUH!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN *DO.*
YOU *HEAR* ME?!
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME *EXACTLY* WHAT THIS HOOD DOES.
*ALL ITS SECRETS!*
*TELL ME!*
YOU *TELL* ME WHAT THIS HOOD *DOES!*
YOU TELL ME WHO *YOU ARE!*
YOU TELL ME WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, ME AND YOU, OR I TAKE THIS HOOD OFF AND I THROW IT *IN THE RIVER* AND YOU GO BACK TO WHEREVER IT IS *YOU CAME FROM!*
YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT.
I *WOULD!*
I AM SURROUNDED BY *MADNESS!*
ALIENS AND CRAZY!
SURROUNDED.
AND I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO *STOP IT!*
YOU TELL ME *NOW!*
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.
ALL RIGHT...

I AM DORMAMMU!
BOW BEFORE ME!
FOR I WILL GUIDE YOUR HAND AND GRANT YOU THE FULL POWER OF THE DARK DIMENSION.
TO BE CONTINUED...